

The background image is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, a large, grey heron stands on a dark, mossy log on the right side, facing left. The middle ground features a calm blue lake. Behind the lake is a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, a large, snow-capped mountain rises against a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

# **Washington's Wild Future:** **A Partnership for Fish and Wildlife**

*Putting Ideas Into Action*

Spring 2016 Update



# Today's agenda

- Overview -- Wild Future initiative
- The public's values and priorities
- We've begun responding to the good ideas we've heard
- Goals for 2017 and beyond
- Budget outlook and funding proposals





# ‘Washington’s Wild Future’

Last fall WDFW began a long-term initiative to improve our effectiveness:

- **We listened** to the ideas of thousands of Washingtonians
- **We heard many** shared values, common themes, and good ideas
- **This spring, we’re asking the public** to help us refine proposals for the 2017 legislative session







# We share the same values

Most of us want:

- More recreational opportunities of all kinds on public and private land
- Increased law enforcement presence
- Simpler rules and clearer communication
- More habitat restoration and effective land stewardship
- Abundant fish and wildlife for future generations
- Improved outreach to youth and an increasingly diverse population

**Washington's outdoor opportunities are key to our quality of life**





# But these values are at risk

- Washington faces major challenges
  - Population growth, climate change, droughts and fires, and more
- The public has rising expectations
  - Strong support for conservation and recreation
- WDFW needs consistent, reliable funding
  - Many of the creative budgeting options we've used in the past are no longer available
- The Wild Future initiative will help us show broad support for our shared goals



# Goals for 2017 and beyond

To address these challenges, we've established the following goals:

- Conserve fish, wildlife, and habitat for future generations
- Sustain hunting opportunities and improve the hunting experience
- Ensure sustainable fishing opportunities
- Secure reliable funding



# We're already acting on some of the good ideas we've heard

- Started a multi-year project to simplify and clarify fishing rules
- Received approval from the Legislature and Governor to rebuild our website
- Offered hunting and hunter education clinics aimed at growing the sport
- Increased promotion of recreation in addition to fishing and hunting
- Begun restoring the popular “WildWatch” cameras for the WDFW website





# Conserve fish, wildlife, and habitat for future generations

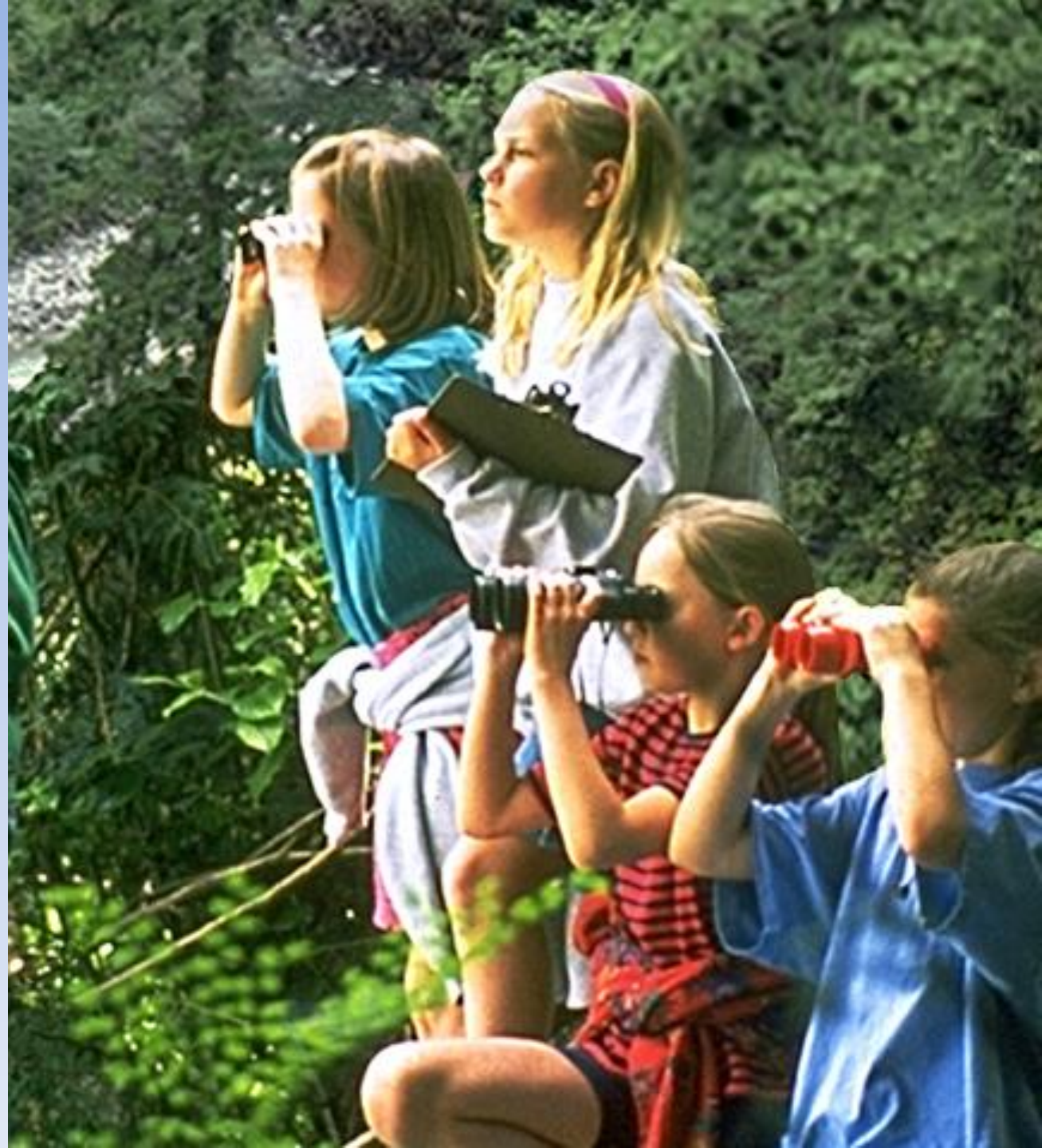
- Support fish and wildlife through funding for habitat restoration and fish barrier removal
- Provide assistance and incentives to private landowners to promote conservation
- Enforce laws and rules that protect species and their habitats
- Pay counties for the tax revenue they lose when the state buys privately owned land for conservation (PILT)





# Conserve and protect Washington's wildlife

- Monitor wildlife health and diseases
- Partner with communities to develop programs for youth and urban residents to enjoy wildlife
- Recover imperiled species
- Enlist the public's help to collect data on wildlife and habitat
- Protect and restore wildlife habitat





# Sustain hunting opportunities, improve the hunting experience

- Increase access to private hunting lands
- Improve stewardship of WDFW-managed habitat and wildlife lands
- Develop target-shooting ranges in central Washington
- Develop free mobile app for hunters
- Conserve hunted animals and their habitats





# Ensure sustainable fishing opportunities

- Maintain and expand recreational fisheries
- Support commercial fisheries
- Restore habitat and remove fish passage barriers to support salmon recovery
- Develop easy-to-use fishing mobile app – expect to begin testing this year
- Increase enforcement to protect resources and public safety







# Support fisheries through hatchery production

- Washington operates the largest hatchery system in the world, but upgrades are needed
- Renovation and improvement plans include:
  - Dungeness Hatchery (Clallam County)
  - Kalama Falls Hatchery (Cowlitz County)
  - Omak Hatchery (Okanogan County)
  - Ringold Hatchery (Franklin County)
  - Spokane Hatchery (Spokane County)
  - Tokul Creek Hatchery (King County)
  - Wallace River Hatchery (Snohomish County)



# Secure reliable funding

- State funding and license revenue aren't keeping pace with the increasing costs of required activities and public desires
- New funding is still needed to fully recover from the deep cuts forced by the great recession
- Years of inflation have eroded buying power
- User fees ***and*** general tax dollars are needed to close the gap
- Fishing and hunting license fees require lawmakers' approval



# **We're asking for your feedback on the best options to take to state lawmakers**

- We've identified about \$60 million in potential investments over the next six years
- New funds in 2017-19 would come mainly from license revenue; in future years we will look to the State General Fund
- Advisory groups and stakeholders are being consulted to help identify the highest priorities
- Our proposals need to be practical and cost-effective
- Broad support is critical to gaining legislative approval



# Funding sources – Fishing and hunting license fees

- We have developed license fee proposals that would increase revenue by \$26 million over two years to cover funding gaps
- Last license fee hikes were in 2010
- The fee structure should:
  - Reflect actual costs of hunting and fishing opportunities
  - Respond to customer preferences
  - Set the same age for senior discounts for both hunters and anglers
  - Get more young people involved



# How would license fee increases affect you?

## Recreational fishing – resident

License type	Current	Proposed
Combination – freshwater, saltwater, shellfish/seaweed, razor clam	\$55.35	\$64.92
Freshwater-only angler	\$29.50	\$34.12
Saltwater angler	\$30.05	\$33.57
Catch record card	Included	\$11.50 to \$17
Shellfish/seaweed	\$17.40	\$26.20
Razor clam	\$14.10	\$17.10
Columbia R. salmon/steelhead	\$8.75	\$9.75
Two-pole endorsement	\$14.80	\$16.50

## Hunting – resident

Customer profile	Current	Proposed
Big game hunter	\$95.50	\$104.85
Big game and small game	\$117.50	\$129.05
Turkey and migratory bird	\$73.40	\$87.29
Deer and turkey	\$82.80	\$90.83
Canada goose (SW WA)	\$70.70	\$84.37

All prices are “out the door” – including dealer and transaction fees



# Funding sources – General tax dollars

WDFW programs improve the quality of life of all Washingtonians, not just hunters and anglers

- Enforcement officers protect natural resources and public safety throughout the state
- Habitat conservation benefits people as well as fish and wildlife
- Recreational and commercial activities support jobs in hundreds of communities

That's why we request general tax dollars





# What's at stake without new funding?

- Current fishing and hunting opportunities would shrink
- Enforcement positions would decline
- Hatchery production would fall and facilities could close
- Outdoor opportunities would not keep up with population growth
- Our quality of life would erode







# What's next for 'Washington's Wild Future'?

- **WDFW must submit 2017 legislative proposals** to the Governor's budget office by September
- **We will continue to provide updates** to help you track the support we receive from partners and lawmakers
- **Thank you** for your continued involvement and support



# Thank you for working with us to ensure Washington's Wild Future

## Continue the conversation...

[wdfw.wa.gov/wildfuture](http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildfuture)

[www.facebook.com/WashingtonFishWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonFishWildlife)

